

The Scranton Tribune

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Governor Roosevelt "desires particularly" that the "solemn and painful act of justice" about to be performed in Sing Sing prison by the execution of Mrs. Place "shall not be made an excuse for that species of hideous sensationalism which is more demoralizing than anything else to the public mind"; accordingly none of the yellow journals will be represented save by the accredited agent of the Associated Press. The governor is a man after decency's own heart.

The license court as conducted in Lackawanna county in the present year of grace will at some future time be an interesting subject to study to the antiquarian. If he shall take the pains to consult the law governing its administration he will find that to the judges was left large discretion upon the belief that in their hands, better than in any others, might safely be left the guardianship of the public welfare; but if he shall look over the individual cases passed on by them he will find instances of the alternate granting and denial of licenses for liquor saloons situated within a stone's throw from church doors and schools for the young; other instances of the granting of licenses to men clearly shown by records to be habitual and persistent violators of the law; still other instances of the granting of licenses for localities already abundantly supplied, and, worst of all, the undisturbed presence in open competition with licensed dealers of dealers who make their defiant boast that the paying of hundreds of dollars for an annual license is sheer extravagance.

It is not surprising that the court should be so leniently disposed toward the liquor laws and which does not permit the election of a judge save under circumstances fatal to absolute independence. We may as well say here that the majority is accurately reflected under existing institutions. Confusion of individuals simply scratches the surface. The majority of the voters of this county evidently do not want a different control of the liquor traffic from what they are receiving at this time; or if they want it they do not want it earnestly enough to go to the trouble of getting it. Taxes are increasing and the great leaders of the increase are the speak-easy and the law-breaking licensed dealer; but the majority prefer to pay their good money and let things drift.

The report is again current that Secretary of War Alger is laying plans to succeed Senator McMillan in the United States senate. If Michigan approves of this arrangement we see no insurmountable reason for national objection.

Invite the Whole Cabinet. The proposition to invite to this city on Sept. 4 next, the day for the assembling in Scranton of the National Association of Letter Carriers, the president of the United States and the postmaster general is a most appropriate one but it might be properly amended to include the whole cabinet. We believe it would be safe to guarantee that if president and cabinet shall come they will never regret it.

In this connection it is intensely gratifying to observe the spirit of liberality in which the citizens of Scranton are responding to the call for contributions for the payment of the expenses of the latter carriers' reception and entertainment. The fund is by no means complete as yet but it is growing steadily and as more of our citizens come to learn what it is for and wherein the city at large will be benefited by the display of proper hospitality to the postmen of the country the growth will undoubtedly continue.

In September Scranton will be in attractive garb, temperature and weather conditions will be inviting and there will be nothing to prevent our distinguished visitors to be from having a tip top time. It is sincerely to be hoped that the president of the United States can see his way clear to form one of their number.

It is pleasing to note that Hon. Joseph Choate has not disappointed the English cousins who were prepared to laugh at his wit.

The Perils of Literature. Ever having something to do with bad beef and the writing of books the prominent American army officers connected with the late war seem determined to more effectually destroy themselves than there was any probability of doing through the medium of a shell or a Mauser bullet. General Wheeler up to the date of the issue of his book "The Santiago Campaign" promised to come through the after part of the late unpleasantness with considerable glory and little blame, but that book settles the matter differently. He is finding the critics to be more dangerous than Spaniards or a host of investigating committees. They say a number of unpleasant things about the soldier-author, the mildest of which is that the work in question is full of inaccuracies. In fact, they rather pointedly intimate that he hasn't told the truth to any material degree throughout its entire length. Then they also assert that it reads like a deliberate effort to belittle the efforts of a number of the other officers, including Gen-

eral Lawton, in order to give undue prominence to his own share of the campaign. They accuse him of taking the credit for handling off the proposition to retreat when such a proposition was discussed at the famous meeting, while army men declare that General Wheeler favored retreat until he found himself far in the minority. He is also charged with endeavoring to assume the glory of commanding at San Juan July 1, when the fact was that he was too ill to take his command, which was given over to General Sumner. To sum up the whole matter, the somewhat equivocal apology is offered by several critics who have read the book that it was not written by General Wheeler, but by some overzealous secretary, as so true a gentleman and noble a soldier could never have made the mis-statements abounding in the book, neither could he be capable of such unfair treatment of a brother officer. Whichever view is the true one, it is evident that the great haste to rush into print which is evinced by so many officers in the Cuban war will scarcely add to the fame of several of these gentlemen. At the same time we pin our faith to Joe Wheeler, in spite of the literary critics.

Rev. H. Fay Mills asserts that "war is a remnant of the barbaric ages. It now only remains for Rev. Mr. Mills to indicate whether it is the expansionist or anti who are to blame."

Reaching After Revenue. Under this heading the Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger summarized briefly a series of bills introduced recently into the state legislature by Representative Hosack of Allegheny.

One of the bills provides for the raising of revenue for state purposes by imposing upon certain foreign corporations, limited corporations and joint stock associations a tax of one-third of 1 per cent. upon the capital stock invested in Pennsylvania. This bill is designed to raise a tax upon foreign corporations that go into other states to obtain their charters. "By so doing," the Ledger correspondent asserts, "the state has lost an immense amount of revenue in the last few years. It is hard to tell what amount this bill will produce, but, basing it on the number of foreign corporations which have come within its provisions within the last two years, it probably would raise \$500,000." Another bill provides that manufacturing corporations shall pay a tax of 1 mill upon their capital stock, by this bill artificial gas companies are included. It is estimated that this bill would produce at least \$250,000 per annum. These corporations have heretofore been exempt. Still another bill introduced by Mr. Hosack provides that corporations issuing bonds shall pay a bonus of one-third of 1 per cent. on all bonds. As there is no way to tax bonds of corporations which are issued in this state by non-residents, this act will tax these bonds in the first instance 3 mills. The Ledger correspondent says the amount of revenue this bill will produce is somewhat indefinite, but might reach \$300,000. These measures, in addition to a more equitable assessment of mercantile taxes by means of which \$1,500,000 of more revenue would result, form one carefully matured programme for paying off the state's floating indebtedness.

The most objectionable feature in this programme is the proposition to impose taxation on the capital stock of manufacturing corporations. The manufacturers of Pennsylvania as a body do more for and receive less from the public than any other class of men engaged in commerce. They suffer more severely than any other class from the inevitable fluctuations of business; they are just emerging into prosperity after an unexampled period of depression during which many of them had all they could do to keep out of the sheriff's clutches; and it would be most inexpedient save under unavoidable necessity to place upon them at this time a burden of legislation when they have by no means succeeded yet in disposing of the burdens accumulated in consequence of the long period of hard times. The necessity for more revenue is admitted, but not the necessity for getting it at the cost of the commonwealth's greatest industry.

We do not believe that in proposing this tax Representative Hosack is in accord with the governor or with a majority opinion in the legislature. The governor has proposed as his first recipe for more revenue the retention by the state of the personal property tax now returned to the counties; and while this is not a pleasant medicine to take it is certainly preferable to any dose which would suspend or cripple established manufacturing industries or discourage the organization of new ones. We in Scranton are having just now an illustration of the hesitancy with which free capital considers good offers of industrial investment; and if a state tax is to be put on top of the other obstacles in the way of new manufacturing enterprises we fear the promotion of diversified industries may come to a dead halt.

Dewey's day on the first of May will be able to arouse the spring poets.

Rivals Yet Friends. The first speech in England of Joseph H. Choate in his official capacity as American ambassador, although very meagerly reported by cable, presented one phase of opinion which is deservedly attracting the attention of thoughtful men in both England and America. He had spoken in most appreciative terms of the remarkable cordiality of his British reception, which had discovered to him "the open door," but growing serious he said: "I beg that you will not mistake my meaning. I do not believe that, although friends, we shall ever cease to be rivals. In the future, as in the past, we on our side and you on yours will still press every advantage that can fairly be taken, but it shall be a generous and loyal rivalry, and all questions, disputes and controversies arising shall be settled by peaceful means, by negotiations, by arbitration, by any and every possible means except war."

Referring to this irrepressible rivalry the Westminster Gazette says with

timeliness: "We shall be all the better friends if this warning is kept in mind. The real danger of the situation is that its sentimental aspect may be so strongly insisted upon that when differences on material points arise there may be an inevitable reaction." And this is true. The reason for amity in the international relations of the two countries are numerous and indisputable; the reasons why between individual Englishmen and Americans of intelligence and good behavior an instinctive feeling of cordiality should exist are equally abundant. The preservation of this moral alliance is essential to mutual progress and to the development of the best results in the world's civilization.

Yet, at the same time, as our London contemporary points out, England and America within certain limits must always be competitors, each in honor bound to put selfish interests first. England, for instance, has a large trade already established in South America. She got it by going for it first while we were attending to internal affairs. As Mr. Choate is represented to have said, our garden is now made and we are free to look around for outside opportunities, among which none are more likely to command our early activity than the opportunity which awaits us in the commerce of the South American republics. No one who has studied the situation can doubt that when the Americans really go for this commerce they will get a liberal part of it. It may take time; it may necessitate the construction of an intercontinental railroad, not to speak of the digging of a trans-isthmian canal, but eventually the coveted markets will become ours, for the reason that they lie naturally within our "sphere of influence"; for the reason that the trend of political developments is toward a closer unification of the peoples and interests of the western hemisphere; and for the reason, above all, that our artisans can make and our salesmen sell what once they get down to it, the best goods for the money to be found anywhere, while human nature will do the rest.

In South America, therefore, we may expect to run counter to the British. So it will be in greater or less degree in China, in Japan, even in England's own Australasia and South African possessions, and in fact wherever the two flags float over ships engaged in a competitive commerce. Though we now lack merchant ships to introduce our flag where in many instances we sell American goods, these, too, will come and the rivalry will be warmly pressed along every line of contact. But, as Mr. Choate says, it need not be an unfair or a churlish rivalry; it should be and public opinion in both countries should see that it shall be a "generous and loyal" rivalry, seeking only a free field and a fair chance. In this way the peace can be kept and the onward march of the world's development made to time itself unflinchingly to Anglo-American joint leadership.

The weather bureau is certainly not as great a success, according to the New York standpoint, as it was under the direction of Farmer Dunn. In nine successive days it is stated that four that contradictions, two partial fulfillments and three reasonably accurate "guesses" were recently chronicled. De Voe and Professor Coles could scarcely do worse. In the past fortnight yesterday's weather was about the only sort successfully forecast. Still, this is March.

Albert August Becker, the confessed wife-murderer of Chicago, is evidently in the preliminaries of the insanity dodge. The best cure for a derangement like that of Becker is found in a properly adjusted rope.

Secretary Alger has brought suit to recover \$150,000 which he paid for land in Tennessee, claiming that he has been imposed upon. It is to be hoped that Miles can prove an alibi.

Aguinado's empire appears to be on its last pair of stilts.

THE HIGHEST POINT.

From the Lebanon Record.

There has been considerable controversy recently in the newspapers as to the exact location of the highest point in the state. Monroe county claims it, but Civil Engineer H. H. Potter, of Potter county, places the elevation on the summit of Tyrone and Clearfield railroad at 2,700 feet, and a still higher point, 2,999 feet, at the intersection of Somerset, Bedford and Cambria counties. According to the last geological report of the state, Prospect Hill, McKean county, three miles east of Smethport, is the highest point in Pennsylvania, some 2,200 feet. However, Potter swears the highest of all other counties.

SURPRISING.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record.

Lackawanna county is to have some more contested elections and the taxpayers are shivering at another prospective bill of costs. It is said that since Lackawanna county was erected the aggregate costs of contested elections foot up \$30,000. No other county in the state has been cursed as Lackawanna with this election contest, and it is surprising that the people submit as they do.

THE REGULAR.

He can bring a redskin down at half a mile!

He's at home in North Dakota or the tropics; But he's got a lot of style, But he's got a lot of style, And the things consarnin' lights' he has made his daily topics.

Aw! he's off to Manila, where the Filipino's shootin'! He's off to Manila where the Filipino's shootin'!

Don't you hear the bands a-playin', An' the army brass brayin', For the regular's trumpet that's a-rushin' to the fray!

He was never known to cravenish on a fight, There's red, white an' blue in him, but he's a nary yellin'; He has stood a thund'rin' sight, An' came up a-smilin' bright, An' he ain't a-goin' to lay down now for any Malay feller.

For he's off to Manila, where the signal's up for trouble; He's off to Manila, with his spirits all a-rushin'!

His Krone's-Jorgensen addressin', "Here's a lesson and a blessin' From the regular army trooper who's a-rushin' to the fray." "The North American.

Maximo Gomez--A Man of Mystery.

From the Buffalo Express.

AS WAS anticipated, the Cuban people are rallying to the support of Gen. Gomez as against the Military Assembly. This is encouraging in several ways. It at once represents acquiescence in the policy of the United States. His deposition by the army officers has lent a sort of enthusiasm to the American policy, where before there was only toleration or open opposition. Moreover, the attack upon him gives the impetus Cuban sentiment else to think of besides the course of the Americans. As the supporter of their chief hero against his rebellious officers, the United States has a better standing with them than as the power that once ordered among people with whom order has never been over-popular. The quarrel among the Cubans, furthermore, furnishes a justification for the continued presence of the United States army in the island, which many Cubans had been disposed hitherto to deny. Gomez's bearing at this time is such as to impress Americans greatly in his favor. The sentiments which he expresses in regard to his own course and his hopes for the future of Cuba could hardly be better chosen.

There is probably no man of the time of whom so much has been written and so little is known as Maximo Gomez. He is a citizen of San Domingo, He fought in the Ten Years' War. He has been the commander-in-chief of the Cubans during their last insurrection. These statements practically give the sum of public knowledge in the United States about him. No correspondent has taken the trouble to visit his San Domingo home and describe it. Whether it is a place or a hotel, whether Gomez is a man of wealth or a poor peasant, whether he possesses education and culture, like Marti and Garcia, or is an ignorant backwoodsman, whether he is generous and generous, his ancestry and antecedents—all these points which are yet to be learned. It is even a matter open to debate whether he is really a skillful and brave soldier in the kind of guerrilla warfare he has conducted. The accounts of his operations furnish abundant material either way, though according to American military standards, the weight of opinion would be that he has shown genius principally for hiding and pillaging and that the only real fighter among the Cubans perished when Antonio Maceo fell.

An interesting description of his personal appearance was written by George Bronson Rea, a correspondent who visited him before the United States entered into the war with Spain. Mr. Rea wrote: "All my previous ideas of the man were shattered at a glance, for, instead of the martial-looking old gentleman, whose bearing conveyed the idea of a thorough soldier, I found a chocolate-colored, withered old man, who gave one the idea of a resurrected Egyptian mummy, with his head up to his eyes, pair of bony, cold, expressionless eyes, that at times glowed like two red coals of fire, especially when in rage or passion." The contradiction in this description which makes blurry, colorless eyes glow like red coals of fire is in the various contradictions which are typical of all that has been written about him. Apparently, Gomez is a man of contradictions.

Rea's experience with Gomez was not very happy, the old man having once threatened to shoot the correspondent, so his statements must be accepted guardedly. His account of a conversation with Gomez represents the Cuban leader as saying that he regarded Bolivar and Juarez as the two greatest generals that the Western continent has produced, but that he gave third place to a San Domingo man whose name he could not even remember. It would appear that Gomez was very familiar with the lives of these Spanish-American revolutionists, being able to describe in detail their campaigns, with the dates of the various skirmishes they fought, etc., but that he was about as ignorant of the famous military men and operations of the United States, as the ordinary citizen of this country is of Gomez's Spanish-American heroes. Yet, even this unfriendly writer could not avoid exclaiming at really the side of Gomez, as when he described the capture of a Spanish major. The prisoner was trembling with fear, expecting to be hanged immediately. Gomez looked at him with contempt as he delivered his sword to a soldier, and said: "We don't kill prisoners. Go and tell Weyler and Marin how Gomez has given you your freedom, while all our poor fellows captured by the likes of you are executed." The officer extended his hand to Gomez to thank him for this unexpected clemency, but the old chieftain replied: "No; I will not shake hands with you under these circumstances. If you wish to have that honor, come to me on the field of battle." That was a speech worthy of a Cyrano de Bergerac, and perhaps Gomez is a sort of shriveled Cuban embodiment of Mr. Rostand's hero, without the nose. We shall learn more about him if he lives till the Cuban question is settled, and he is certainly a man whose character will be well worth studying.

ERRORS OF PASSION.

From the Philadelphia Times.

The Independents and Democrats of the house took issue with Speaker Farr because he adjourned the body under the rule requiring the house to adjourn at 11 o'clock on Fridays. For this they themselves together and confessed their blunder by amending the rule to make no hour for adjournment on Fridays, thus leaving the house open as usual. In the inflated passions of that conflict in opposition to the speaker they permitted themselves to be placed in a false position on two questions directly affecting the dignity and character of the body. The first was the organization of the rum house that Mr. Bliss, the chosen speaker, was compelled to vote for the regularly organized house and therefore not capable of any legislative action. In the wild temper of the moment, the speaker of the house was directed to report the proceedings of the mass meeting and the proceedings of the regular legislature, and they were so reported and printed in the Legislative Record. The officers of the house directly responsible for what is published in the Record, ordered the edition unamended containing the report of the disorganized mass meeting and against this act of justice to the legislature a number of his colleagues, the Independents have made violent protest.

The house has set itself right and sustained Speaker Farr in enforcing the rule relating to adjournment on Fridays by unanimously amending the rule, and it should be quite as frank and just to itself by excluding from the Record everything

but the proper legislative proceedings. The house could order the proceedings of the meetings over which Mr. Bliss presided to be published in the Record, as it can in times of order, reports, etc., to be printed for public information, but until the house shall by a resolution order the publication of those proceedings in the Record, they have no more right there than would a report of the proceedings of the Quay caucus held in the Supreme court room or the proceedings of an anti-Quay meeting in Lancaster.

ONLY IN FUN.

Exile Necessary.

Doctor—Your husband must have complete rest. Wife—I know it, I talk to him seven or eight hours a day so as to keep his mind off of business. Doctor—On second thought, madam, I conclude that the one chance for your husband is to take him to the hospital, with instructions that no one but the trained nurse and myself be admitted.—Detroit Free Press.

Fairy Tales.

Children—Oh, papa, do tell us a story, a real made-up one, you know. Father—But, bless you, my dears, I can't make up stories. The mother—What about those explanations you have given me about being detained so late by business and at the club.—Judy.

Her Little Scheme.

He stood upon his feet; The trolley car was packed. Since she had got his seat He stood upon his feet. She'd worked a scheme quite neat, She stood upon his feet. The trolley car was packed. —Catholic Standard and Times.

Resolution.

"He didn't get the better of me," triumphantly remarked the man whose coat-sleeves are always too short. "You mean the book agent who just left?" "Yes, I stood firm, didn't I?" "Absolutely." "It was hard work, for he is a mighty persuasive man. And besides, I wanted those books the worst kind and I'm going to get them next week. I'll have to pay several dollars more than he asked. But I was bound he shouldn't get the best of me."—Washington Star.

Sweetness Long Drawn Out.

Alcohol—You know, it is ultra fashionable to bid one's guests adieu in the parlour, and not proceed to the hall. Mr. Huggard (promptly)—Well, suppose we say good-bye in the parlor, and in the hall, too?—Puck.

Subtleties.

Intercourse with Christians had given the savage a taste not only for rum but for direct subtleties as well. "I spare your life," he said to the captive. "Thank you," the captive replied, not forgetting his manners. "So you owe me your life, don't you?" asked the savage. "Oh, yes," said the captive. "Well, then, if I take your life, I won't be stealing, will I?" exclaimed the savage. It was clear this benighted person took a truly civilized delight in burning his ethical sensibilities for the benefit of his propensities.—Detroit Journal.

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